

## Moses – part 22

*Each of you is to fear his mother and father*  
by Victor Torres

How we treat our parents is very important to the Lord. Do we fear our father and mother? Yes, I said fear. That's what the Bible says.

Lev 19:1 (ISV) The LORD spoke to Moses,

Lev 19:2 "Tell the entire assembly of Israel that they are to be holy, since I, the LORD your God, am holy.

Lev 19:3 "**Each of you is to fear his mother and father.** "Observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

Yes, we need to respect our parents. Yes, we need to honor them. But we also need to fear them. Fear is beyond respect and honor. This is a good kind of fear. This is the kind of fear that will keep us safe.

Pro 6:20 (CEV) Obey the teaching of your parents--

Pro 6:21 **always keep it in mind and never forget it.**

Pro 6:22 Their teaching will guide you when you walk, **protect you when you sleep,** and talk to you when you are awake.

Listen to your parents instructions very carefully. Obey them because your life depends on your obedience. Rebellious children during the time of Moses were punished severely.

Deu 21:18 (ESV) "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,

Deu 21:19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,

Deu 21:20 and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

Deu 21:21 **Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones.** So you shall purge the evil from your midst, **and all Israel shall hear, and fear.**

I don't want to upset any of you. I showed you those verses because I want you to pay attention. We don't stone rebellious children today, but we still need to fear our parents. Fear gets our attention. When there is a danger to our life, we

pay attention. That is the kind of attention I want you to give your parents when they talk to you. Because if you don't, that will cause you your life.

Pro 4:1 (GNB) My children, listen to what your father teaches you. **Pay attention, and you will have understanding.**

Pro 4:2 What I am teaching you is good, so remember it all.

Pro 4:3 When I was only a little boy, my parents' only son,

Pro 4:4 my father would teach me. He would say, "**Remember what I say and never forget it. Do as I tell you, and you will live.**

This is a dangerous world in which we live. If you ignore simple instructions like "don't talk to strangers", it can literally cost you your life. Hang on to every word that your parents tell you. They will make you wise, and you will be rewarded if you listen and do them.

Eph 6:1 (ESV) Children, **obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right.

Eph 6:2 "**Honor your father and mother**" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Eph 6:3 "**that it may go well with you** and that you may live long in the land."

Obedience is the highest form of honor that you can give your parents. You make them so happy when they see you doing what you are told. On the other hand, you dishonor your parents when you disobey them or when you ignore what they tell you.

What other ways can you dishonor your parents?

Exo 21:15 (ESV) "Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Exo 21:17 "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Hitting your dad or your mom, or cursing your mom or your dad is a very serious offense to God. This sin is so serious that to the Lord that He gave the same punishment – death – as to those who killed someone.

Exo 21:12 (ESV) "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.

Exo 21:13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee.

Exo 21:14 But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take

him from my altar, that he may die.

Exo 21:15 "Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Exo 21:16 "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

Exo 21:17 "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Murder, kidnapping, hitting your parents or cursing them were all punishable by death under the law of Moses. Cursing your parents is not just saying swear words to them. It is speaking evil of them.

Pro 30:17 (ESV) The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

Never mock your dad or your mom. It is a grave sin to God. How else do you dishonor them?

Mat 15:1 (CEV) About this time some Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses came from Jerusalem. They asked Jesus,

Mat 15:2 "Why don't your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do? They don't even wash their hands before they eat."

Mat 15:3 Jesus answered: Why do you disobey God and follow your own teaching?

Mat 15:4 Didn't God command you to respect your father and mother? Didn't he tell you to put to death all who curse their parents?

Mat 15:5 **But you let people get by without helping their parents when they should.** You let them say that what they have has been offered to God.

Mat 15:6 Is this any way to show respect to your parents? You ignore God's commands in order to follow your own teaching.

Jesus was angry with these religious leaders because they teach their followers that they didn't need to help their parents as long as they offer money to their church. He called them hypocrites.

Our Lord will be angry at us also if we don't help our parents in their time of need. Our parents work so hard to provide for us, and we will be ungrateful if we don't help them when they need us.

2Ti 3:1 (CEV) You can be certain that in the last days there will be some very hard times.

2Ti 3:2 People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and **disobedient to their parents**. They will also be **ungrateful**, godless,

2Ti 3:3 heartless, and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything that is good.

Kids, we are living in the last days. That's the kind of people we are surrounded with today. "Rude, proud, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful".

Are we going to be like them?

Our Lord even quoted His commands to Israel to honor their father and mother and to put to death those who curse their parents. Here's another translation of "cursing their parents":

Mat 15:4 (MKJV) For God commanded, saying, "Honor your father and mother"; and, **"He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him die by death."**

Next time you are tempted to say bad things about your dad or your mom, remember that is the same as cursing your parents, and you will be punished severely.

Of course, today parents are not told to put their children to death when they rebel against them or they curse them. However, we are told to discipline you, either by spanking you or by reprimanding you.

Pro 29:15 (ESV) The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

"The rod" is spanking and "reproof" is verbal correction. We talk to you and sternly warn you not to do the bad thing you have just done. Godly parents do both, whichever is appropriate, because it gives wisdom. The child will learn from his or her mistake.

On the other hand, "a child left to himself brings shame to his mother". A neglected child, someone who is not spanked or corrected, will always misbehave. This is why we always want to know what you're up to.

"What are you playing in your iPad?"

"Honey, what song is that you're singing?"

"Son, what is that YouTube video you're watching?"

"Can you tell me about that friend of yours?"

Don't get mad at us when we ask you those kind of questions. We want to know those things in order to protect you from bad influence.

Pro 29:17 (ESV) Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

Parents, discipline your kids, and they will give you rest or peace of mind. “[They] will give delight to your heart”. Kids, think of ways to make your parents happy. You will be rewarded for doing so.

The Lord is our prime example of making our parents happy.

Mat 3:16 (ESV) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

We need to ask, is there a spiritual meaning to those laws regarding rebellious children and their punishment?

Let's look at those verses in Deuteronomy again:

Deu 21:18 (ESV) "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,

Deu 21:19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,

Deu 21:20 and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

Deu 21:21 Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

In the New Testament, we are given steps on how a spiritual mother (the church) should discipline a stubborn and rebellious child (a member who will not listen to correction).

Mat 18:15 (GNB) "If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back.

Mat 18:16 **But if he will not listen to you**, take one or two other persons with you, so that 'every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses,' as the

scripture says.

Mat 18:17 (MKJV) And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he neglects to hear the church, let him be to you as a heathen and a tax-collector.

Treating someone as a heathen or a tax-collector is stoning them to death spiritually. The Lord sees everyone who doesn't follow Him as spiritually dead.

Mat 8:22 (KJV) But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Our Lord said His words are spirit and life. Heathens and tax collectors are the symbols of the two groups of people with whom we should not discuss our Lord's words. Heathens are those who don't call Jesus Christ their Lord. They include Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. Tax collectors are symbols of Christians that call Jesus their Lord but do not do the things that He says.

When we are heathens or tax-collectors, we spiritually starve to death.

Joh 6:63 (MKJV) It is the Spirit that makes alive, the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit and are life.**

Let's review what we learned in this study:

- We need to honor and fear our father and our mother
- We honor our parents when we obey them
- We need to help our parents and provide for them when they get old
- We need to listen to our parents and remember their teachings
- We need to think of ways to make our dad and mom happy
- We dishonor our parents when we disobey them
- It is a grave sin to God when we speak badly of our dad or mom
- Godly parents constantly watch over their kids
- Godly parents discipline their kids when they misbehave